# THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987

Revised
March 3, 1989
Health Economics and Statistics
Alberta Health

92-01595/

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- In 1987, 5,505 therapeutic abortions were performed in 19 Alberta hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees. Total abortions in 1987 were 12.5% fewer than in 1986.

- Calgary and Edmonton hospitals accounted for 79.5% of all abortions in Alberta in 1987, compared to 83.4% in 1986.

- Six hospitals, each performing 200 or more abortions per year, accounted for 87.0% of Alberta's abortions. Three of these six hospitals performed over 4,000 abortions in 1987 (72.9% of the total) which averaged to approximately 1,300 abortions performed annually in each facility.

- In 1987, the number of therapeutic abortions performed per 1,000 Alberta females, 15 to 44 years of age, was 9.2 compared to 10.5 in 1986. Abortions per 100 live births was 13.1 in 1987, down from 14.4 in 1986.

- Teenage women accounted for 25.5% of all abortion patients while 55.2% were between the ages of 20 and 29 years.

- Single women accounted for 64.7% of therapeutic abortion patients while 17.9% were married and 17.4% were either separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.

- In 1987, women with 12 or less weeks of gestation accounted for 90.2% of all abortions.

- At least one previous induced abortion was reported by 20.2% of therapeutic abortion patients in 1987 while 8.1% reported at least one previous spontaneous abortion.

- The most frequently used initial procedure was Suction D&C, performed in 64.8% of all abortion cases.

- At least one complication resulting from abortion procedures was reported in 5.5% of the cases, a decrease from 6.0% in 1986.

- Subsequent procedures were performed in 4.8% of all abortion cases, down from 5.2% of 1986.

- In 1987, 9.1% (503) of the women obtaining abortions were sterilized concurrently with the abortion procedure.

- The most recent Canadian data available were for 1986. In this year, Alberta hospitals accounted for 9.9% of all abortions performed in Canada.

## INTRODUCTION

This publication presents pertinent facts about the women who had therapeutic abortions and the care provided to them in Alberta hospitals during 1987. Specifically, the report includes data related to the following topics, among others: demographic and medical information about the therapeutic abortion patients, the nature of medical procedures used and the consequent complications and the average annual rates of abortion, in relation to the female population and the annual level of live births.

Although the focus is on the current Alberta situation, selected historical provincial and national statistics are provided for comparison and trend analysis. Therapeutic abortion data are taken from hospital records reported to Alberta Health. Since the data are also reported to Statistics Canada, the overall comparability of provincial and national statistics is enhanced.

## THE ABORTION LAW

In 1969, the Parliament of Canada passed the Criminal Code Amendment Act, which legalized the performance of abortions under specific conditions. Chapter C-34, Section 251, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, outlined the conditions which had to be satisfied for the legal performance of therapeutic abortions. Although the Supreme Court of Canada struck down this Section on January 28, 1988, the following conditions were in effect in Alberta for the calendar year 1987:

1. the abortion procedure must be carried out by a qualified physician;

2. the qualified physician may not be a member of the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee;

3. the procedure is permitted only in an accredited or an approved hospital, the former consisting of general hospitals accredited by the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation and the latter being hospitals approved by the Provincial Minister of Health; and

4. the decision regarding the termination of pregnancy is placed before the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee. The committee must decide whether or not continuation of the pregnancy "would or would be likely to" endanger the life or health of the female patient.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

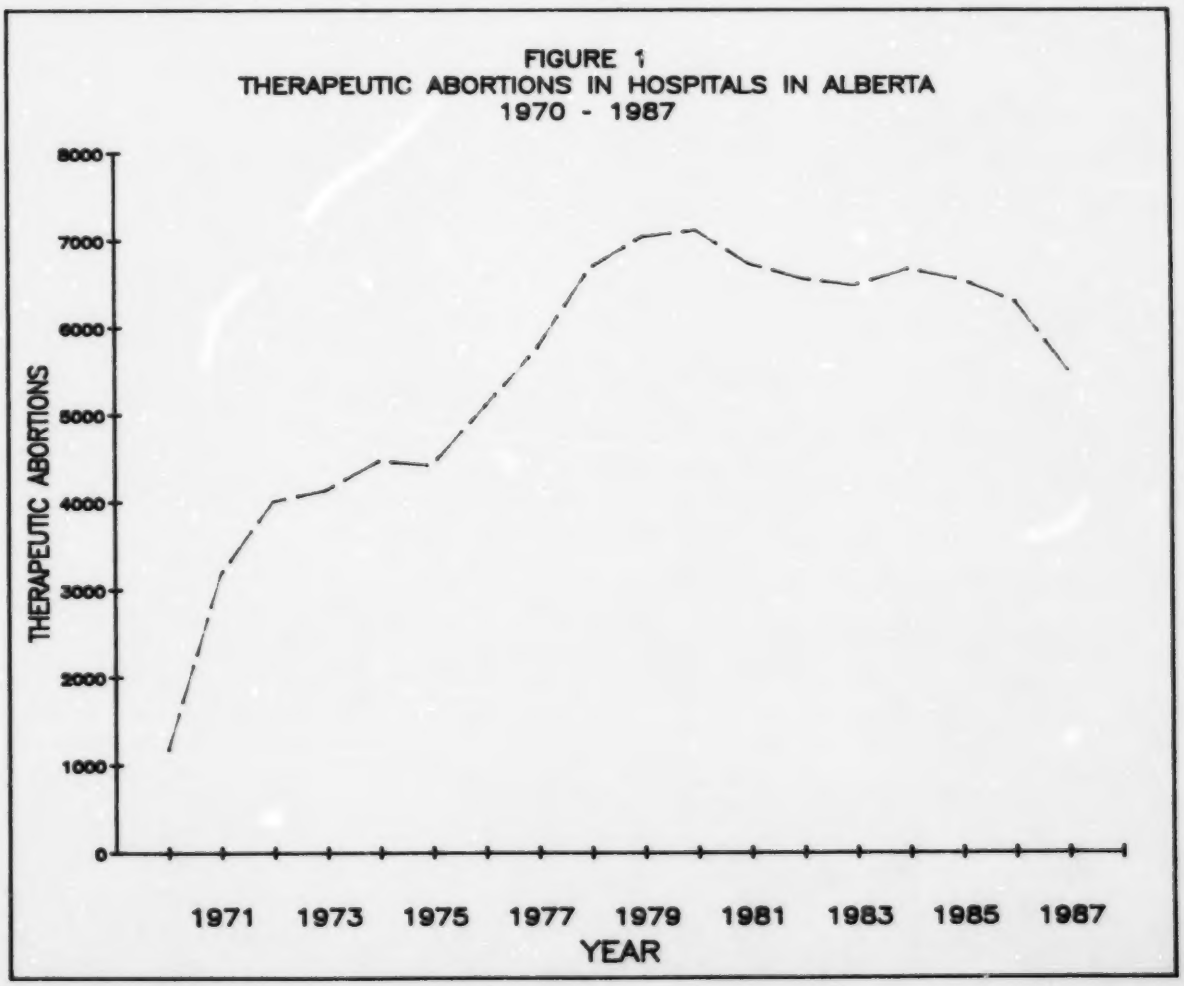
### Abortions Performed in Alberta and Canadian Hospitals

A list of hospitals which had therapeutic abortion committees is provided in Appendix B of this report. In 1987, 5,505 abortions were performed in 19 of the 22 Alberta hospitals with abortion committees, a 12.5% decline from the 1986 level. An overall downward trend in abortions began in 1981 and has continued into 1987, with only one upward turn which occurred in 1984.

From 1984 to 1986, the number of abortions performed in Canadian hospitals increased from 62,291 to 63,508. Although the number of abortions performed in Alberta increased slightly in 1984, there has been an overall downward trend in abortion from 1985 (6,544) to 1987 (5,505).

Figure 1 illustrates the trend in total therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals from 1970 to the present. Table A-1 in Appendix A presents the data for both Alberta and Canada.

FIGURE 1
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA
1970 - 1987



**Distribution of Hospitals and Therapeutic Abortions by Number of Abortions Performed**

In 1987, six hospitals performing over 200 abortions each, accounted for 87.0% of all therapeutic abortions in the province. Three of these six hospitals performed over 4,000 abortions in 1987 (72.9% of the total), which averaged to 1,300 abortions annually performed in each of these three facilities. In 1986, eight hospitals, each performing over 200 abortions, accounted for 95.1% of total abortions in that year. Three of these eight hospitals performed over 4,700 abortions (74.8% of the total), which averaged to over 1,500 abortions performed in each of these facilities in 1986.

The distribution and concentration of abortions across hospitals in Alberta in 1987 were similar to those of Canada in 1985. Detailed Canadian data of this type were unavailable for 1986. As of January 1, 1985, there were 253 Canadian hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees (22 in Alberta). Of the 244 hospitals which filed reports, 60.7% performed between 0 and 100 abortions (59.0% in Alberta), accounting for 5.4% of the total 60,956 cases in the country (5.3% in Alberta); 23.4% of the eligible Canadian hospitals each performed between 101 and 400 abortions (27.2% in Alberta), accounting for 20.1% of the Canadian total (21.8% in Alberta). The remaining 15.0% of Canadian hospitals with abortion committees (13.6% in Alberta) each performed over 400 abortions, representing 74.4% of all women receiving abortions in Canadian hospitals (72.9% in Alberta)(1). Further information regarding the distribution and concentration of abortions in Alberta hospitals can be found in Table A-2 of Appendix A.

**Abortions by Hospital Location**

Edmonton and Calgary have seven hospitals which perform therapeutic abortions procedures. In 1987, these seven institutions carried out 4,377 abortions, accounting for 79.5% of all abortion cases in Alberta hospitals. For the third consecutive year this percentage has fallen (84.2% in 1984 to 83.8% and 83.4% in 1985 and 1986 respectively), reflecting a slight decline in the concentration of abortions in the metropolitan hospitals.

Since 1983, Calgary's proportion of total abortions has been on a general upward trend, rising from 41.9% in 1982 to 50.6% in 1986 and 56.0% in 1987. Edmonton's proportion has been on an overall downward trend over this same period, from 37.2% in 1982 to 23.5% in 1987.

A total of 3,085 therapeutic abortions were performed in Calgary in 1987, 3.2% fewer than the 1986 total. Edmonton's total for 1987 was 1,292, 37.3% fewer than for 1986. Primarily, the substantial decline in the number of abortions reported by Edmonton hospitals was a result of the decrease in the number of physicians willing to perform abortions in this particular city in 1987.

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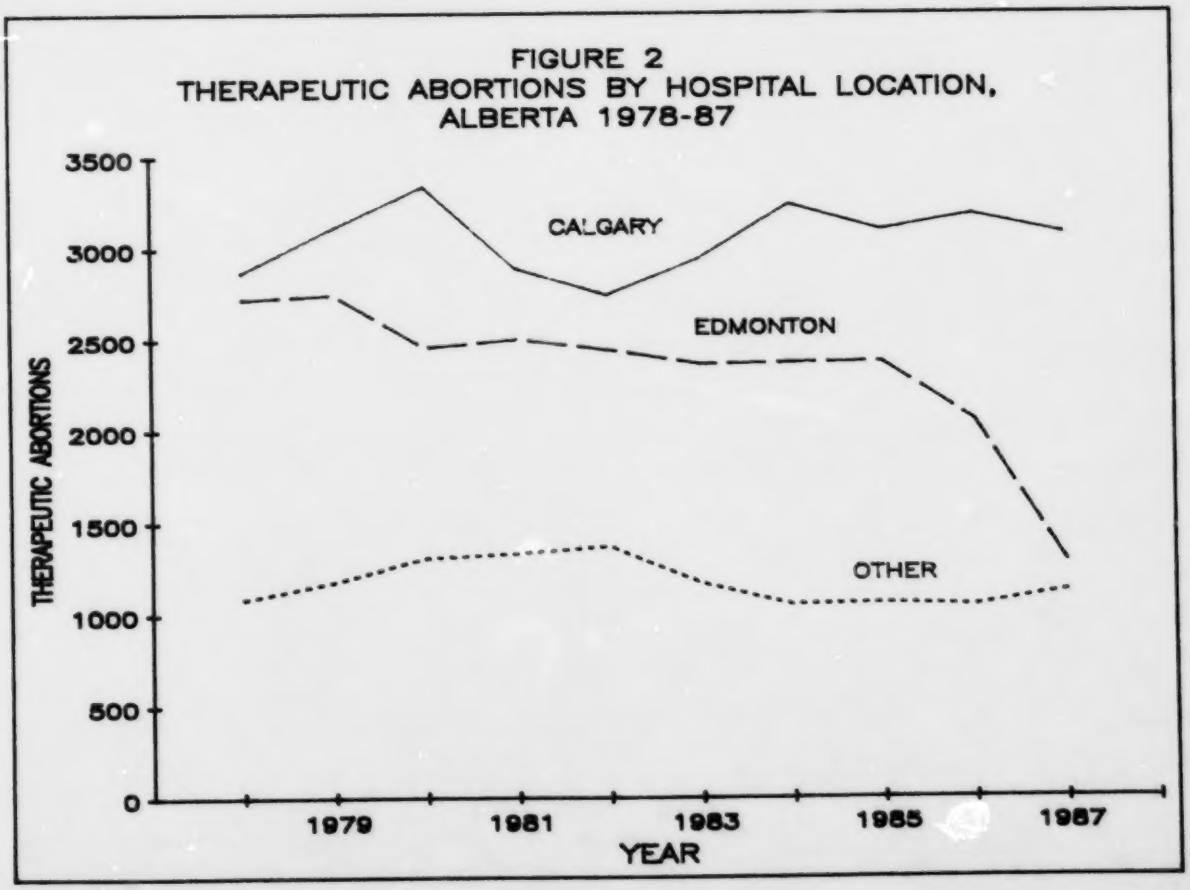
(1) Source: Canadian data were taken from Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions**, Catalogue 82-211 and Alberta data from the **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File.**

Although the majority of Calgary and Edmonton cases were likely comprised of residents of the two cities, these hospitals served as referral centres for women originating from other parts of the province and country. Figure 2 presents an historical perspective of the proportion of total abortions performed in three areas of Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary and all other locations). Details regarding the distribution of therapeutic abortions by hospital location are presented in Table A-3 of Appendix A.

## THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA

Two types of abortion rates were calculated: per 1,000 females age 15-44 years and per 100 live births. The Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females (15-44 years) declined for the third consecutive year, from 11.2 in 1984 to 9.2 in 1987, reaching the lowest point since 1971. In 1985, both the female population in child bearing years and total abortions declined for the province of Alberta. With the decline in abortions significantly outweighing the population drop, the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 decreased. In 1986, Alberta experienced an increase in the female population of the 15-44 years age group. This, combined with a lower total number of abortions, led to a further decline in the abortion rate per 1,000 females, 15-44 years (10.5). However, in 1987, it was the significant decline in the number of abortions which led to the decline in the abortion rate per 1,000 females, 15-44 years (9.2), as the female population in childbearing years remained close to its 1986 level. The rate for Canada remained constant at 10.2 from 1983 to 1986.

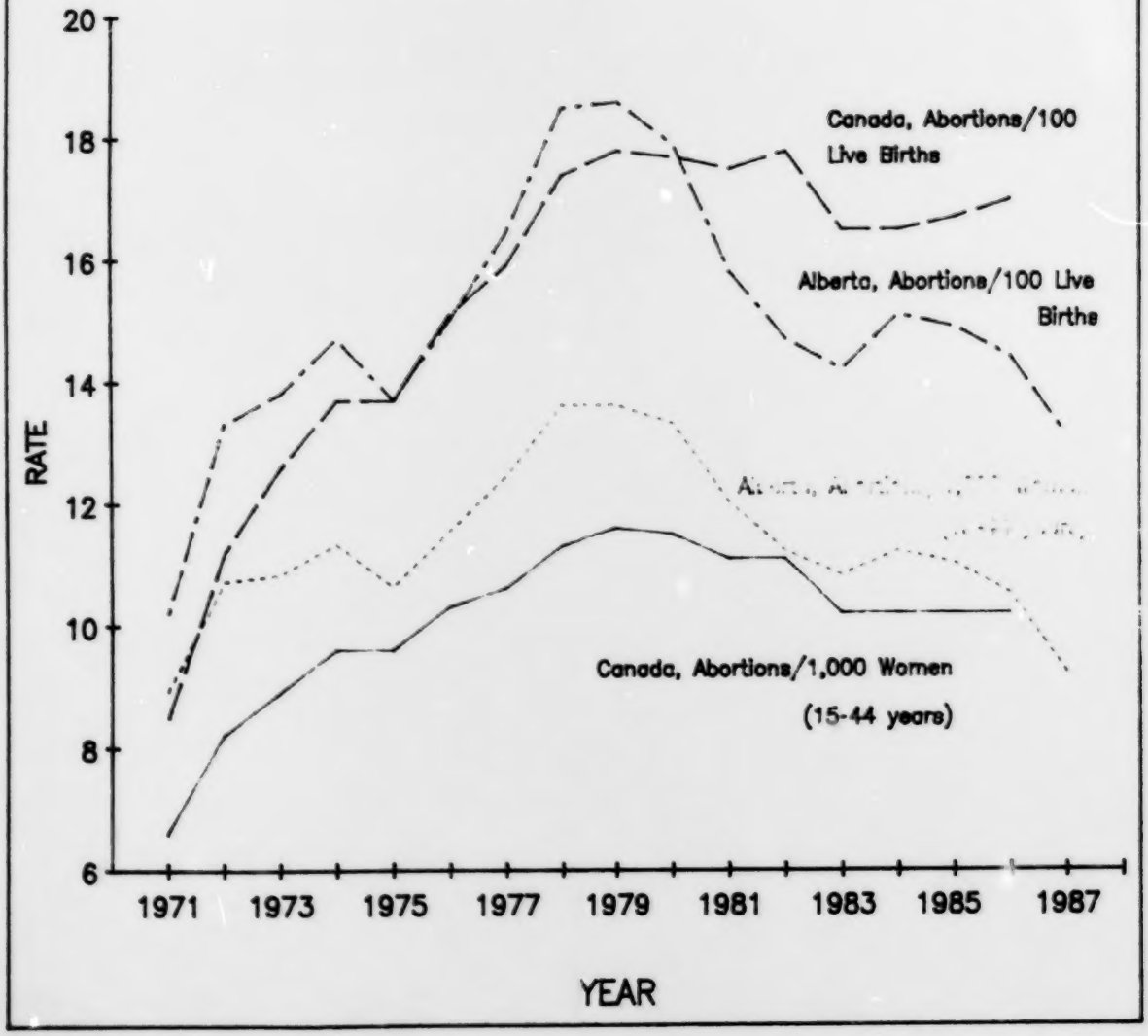
FIGURE 2
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION,
ALBERTA 1978-87



The 1987 rate of abortions per 100 live births was 13.1, down from 14.4 of 1986. The 1986 Canadian rate of 17.0 was slightly higher than the 16.7 of 1985. Figure 3 presents trends in abortion rates for Alberta and Canada from 1971 to 1987.

It is interesting to note that although the Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years has been higher than the Canadian rate (since 1971), the provincial abortion rate per 100 live births has been lower than the corresponding Canadian rate (since 1981). This has occurred because the difference in the fertility rates (live births per 1,000 females 15-44 years) between Alberta and Canada, has been much larger than the difference in the abortion rates (in terms of 1,000 females 15-44 years). For an algebraic relationship between the therapeutic abortion rate per 100 live births and the fertility rate, see Endnote (6).

FIGURE 3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA
1971-1987



## SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS

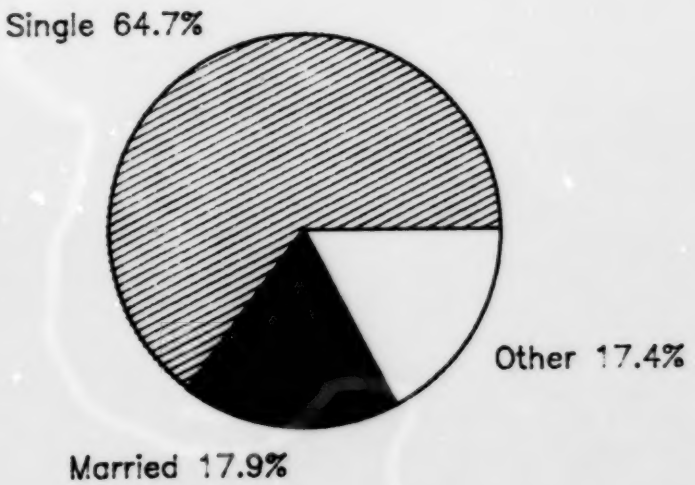
### Residence

Of the 5,505 women receiving abortions in 1987, 5,465 (99.27%) were Alberta residents. Similarly, in 1985, Canadian residents accounted for 99.95% of all legal abortions performed in Canadian hospitals. Of the 40 non-residents of Alberta who received abortions in Alberta hospitals, 39 were residents of other Canadian provinces or territories and 1 was from out of the country. Alberta residents accounted for 3,151 days (98.88%) of the total 3,158 hospital days attributed to therapeutic abortions. Statistical detail is provided in Table A-4 of Appendix A.

### Marital Status

From 1981 to 1983, the proportion of total therapeutic abortions performed on single women followed a downward trend falling from 69.2% in 1981 to 64.2% in 1983. This trend did not continue into 1984 as the percentage of single women obtaining abortions in Alberta hospitals rose to 66.3%, falling again to the 1985 and 1986 level of 65.8% and 64.7% in 1987. The proportion of married women remained constant at 19.5% in 1984 and 1985, then decreased to 18.6% and 17.9% in 1986 and 1987. Figure 4 presents the distribution of therapeutic abortions by marital status for Alberta in 1987. Historical data regarding this distribution are presented in Table A-6 of Appendix A.

FIGURE 4
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS,
DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS,
ALBERTA, 1987



**Age**

Since 1979, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on women less than 20 years of age in Alberta hospitals has been decreasing: 36.1% in 1979 to 24.1% in 1986. This trend reversed somewhat in 1987 when 25.5% of abortions were performed on teenage women. Women aged 20 to 24 years accounted for 32.8% of total abortions in 1987, down slightly from the 1986 level of 35.3%. The mode of the distribution (ie., the age group reporting the highest number of abortions) changed in 1980 from the 15 to 19 years of age category to the 20 to 24 years group and has since remained unchanged.

Details are provided in Table A-6 of Appendix A. Figure 5 illustrates the age distribution of women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1987.

**Teenage Abortions**

In both Alberta and Canada, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on teenage women declined from 1979 to 1986. For Alberta, this trend did not continue into 1987. This year, 25.5% of all Alberta abortions were received by teens, up from 24.1% in 1986. The comparable figure for Canada was 22.3% in 1986, down slightly from 22.9% in 1985. Of the 1,406 abortions received by Alberta teens in 1987, 94.2% were single women, 1.7% were married and 4.1% were either divorced, widowed, separated or living in common-law arrangements.

FIGURE 5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS,
DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP,
ALBERTA 1987

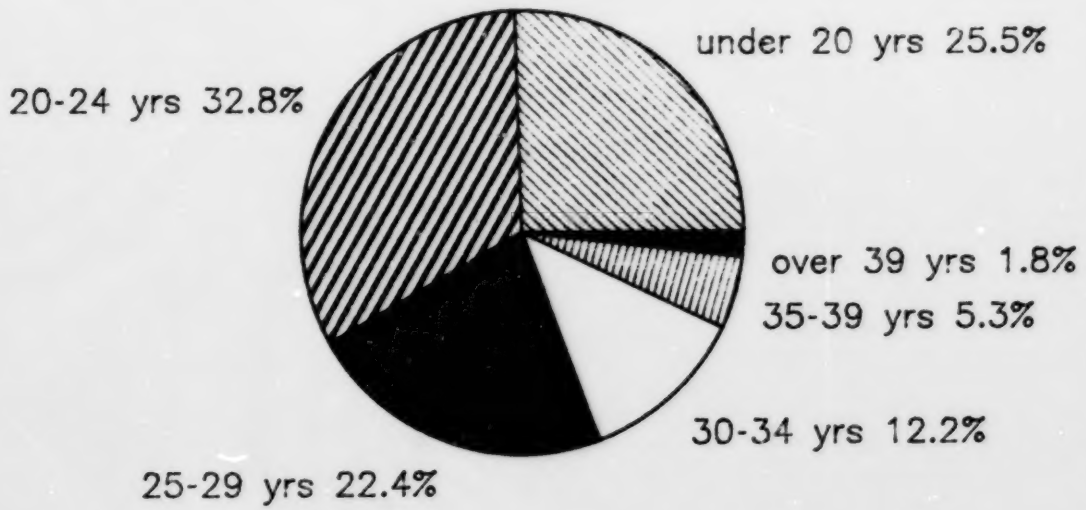


**TABLE 1**
**TEENAGE ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, 1982 TO 1987**

| | ALBERTA | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YEAR | THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS TO PATIENTS UNDER 20 YEARS | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ABORTIONS FOR ALL AGES | THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS TO PATIENTS UNDER 20 YEARS | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ABORTIONS FOR ALL AGES |
| | | (%) | | (%) |
| **1987** | **1,406** | **25.5** | **n/a** | **n/a** |
| 1986 | 1,518 | 24.1 | 13,920 | 22.3 |
| 1985 | 1,650 | 25.2 | 13,849 | 22.9 |
| 1984 | 1,696 | 25.4 | 14,598 | 23.6 |
| 1983 | 1,722 | 26.6 | 16,696 | 24.9 |
| 1982 | 1,880 | 28.6 | 17,647 | 26.8 |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

## SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS RELATING TO THE PREGNANCY RECORD OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS

### Gestation Period

The gestation period, defined as the interval between the onset of the last menstrual period and the expulsion or removal of the fetus, is calculated as the difference between the date the pregnancy is terminated and the first day of the last normal menses and is expressed in completed weeks rather than in days. In cases where the normal menses is not known, gestation is clinically estimated. Since 1984, at least 90% of all therapeutic abortions in Alberta have been performed on patients having gestation periods of 12 weeks or less. This proportion has been over 80% since 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed in the early stages of pregnancy (prior to 13 weeks gestation) increased steadily, from 83.2% in 1980 to 91.5% in 1985. The proportion performed prior to 9 weeks gestation also rose over these five years from 16.0% in 1980 to 29.4% in 1985. In 1986, the proportions fell to 90.1% and 25.4%, respectively, rising slightly to 90.2% and 27.8% in 1987.

Canadian data show these proportions increasing from 1981 to 1985. However, the percentage of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks decreased from 89.0% in 1985 to 87.8% in 1986. Similarly, the percentage of abortions performed prior to 9 weeks gestation declined from 31.8% in 1985 to 30.7% in 1986.

Considering 1987 therapeutic abortions in Alberta by marital status and age, 92.2% of all married women had their abortions early in pregnancy (prior to 13 weeks). Comparable figures for the single and other categories were 90.0% and 88.8% respectively. Historically (since 1972), single women and teenagers have had proportionately fewer abortions in early gestation stages than women in other marital and age categories. However, in 1987, single women had proportionately more abortions, prior to 13 weeks gestation, than women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law. Tables A-7 and A-8 in Appendix A provide further details.

**TABLE 2**
**THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD(3) (1982 TO 1987 SELECTED YEARS)**

| | ALBERTA | | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gestation Period | **1987** | 1986 | 1982 | 1986 | 1982 |
| | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Under 9 wks. | **27.8** | 25.4 | 17.9 | 30.7 | 25.9 |
| 9 - 12 wks. | **62.4** | 64.7 | 67.8 | 57.1 | 61.0 |
| Subtotal (under 13 wks.) | **90.2** | 90.1 | 85.7 | 87.8 | 86.9 |
| 13 - 16 wks. | **6.2** | 7.3 | 11.7 | 8.7 | 9.7 |
| 17 - 20 wks. | **3.4** | 2.6 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| 21 wks. or over | **0.2** | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Subtotal (13 wks. or over) | **9.8** | 9.9 | 14.3 | 12.1 | 13.1 |
| TOTAL(4) | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1),(2) Refer to the Endnotes.
(3) Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
(4) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

**Previous Deliveries**

At least one previous delivery was reported by 42.2% of all abortion patients in Alberta, an increase over the 41.6% of 1986. Comparable Canadian figures for 1986 and 1985 were 39.6% and 38.4%, respectively.

Of all single women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1987, 22.0% reported having at least one previous delivery. The corresponding percentages for married women and all other women were 85.1% and 73.3% respectively.

Generally, the older the patient the greater the likelihood of a previous delivery. Of all patients 30 years of age or older, 74.4% had one or more previous deliveries as compared to 34.5% of women less than 30 years. The 1986 percentages for the two groups were 75.2% and 33.4% respectively. Additional information is presented in Table 3 below and Table A-9 in Appendix A.

**TABLE 3**
**THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1982 TO 1987**

| YEAR | ALBERTA | CANADA |
|---|---|---|
| | (%) | (%) |
| **1987** | **42.2** | **n/a** |
| 1986 | 41.6 | 39.6 |
| 1985 | 39.0 | 38.4 |
| 1984 | 38.0 | 38.0 |
| 1983 | 36.4 | 37.1 |
| 1982 | 34.2 | 36.1 |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

**Previous Spontaneous or Induced Abortions**

Previous spontaneous abortions were reported by 8.1% of all women receiving abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1987. The comparable figure for Canada in 1986 was 6.9%.

One or more previous induced abortions were reported by 20.2% of women having an abortion in Alberta in 1987. The Canadian figure was 24.2% for 1986. Although this proportion has been on an upward trend for a number of years (since 1982), for both Alberta and Canada, Alberta's figures have been lower than those for Canada.

Of all women having abortions who were separated, divorced, widowed or in common-law arrangements, 27.8% reported having had at least one previous induced abortion; 18.7% of all single women and 18.5% of all married women having abortions also reported previous induced abortions. Considering the distribution by age group, 27.1% of women aged 25 to 29 years having abortions reported having had at least one previous induced abortion.

Further details regarding previous induced or spontaneous abortions are provided in Table 4 below and Table A-10 of Appendix A.

**TABLE 4**
**PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS INDUCED OR SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS, 1982 TO 1987**

| | Induced Abortions | | Spontaneous Abortions | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Alberta | Canada | Alberta | Canada |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| **1987** | **20.2** | **n/a** | **8.1** | **n/a** |
| 1986 | 18.5 | 24.2 | 7.7 | 6.9 |
| 1985 | 16.6 | 20.3 | 6.8 | 6.6 |
| 1984 | 16.6 | 19.5 | 6.9 | 6.5 |
| 1983 | 14.6 | 18.9 | 7.0 | 6.3 |
| 1982 | 13.5 | 17.5 | 5.8 | 5.6 |

Refer to Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

## SELECTED MEDICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION CASES

### Surgical Procedures

Initial Surgical Procedures

Procedures undertaken to terminate pregnancy are referred to as initial surgical procedures. In 1987, the most frequently used initial procedure was Suction D&C, which accounted for 64.8% of all cases. All D&C procedures together accounted for 94.0% of initial procedures used. Although this is a slight decline from the 1986 figure of 94.8%, the ratio of D&C procedures to all others had been on an overall upward trend since 1972. This trend can be attributed to the increased percentage of abortions being performed prior to 13 weeks gestation, as initial D&C procedures are performed when pregnancy is terminated early in gestation.

Suction D&C and the combination procedure Suction-Surgical D&C have generally been favoured over Surgical D&C when curettage abortion procedures have been required. The proportion of women receiving abortions in Alberta by Saline and Urea injections and Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy procedures was relatively small. Details are provided in Table 5 below and in Table A-11 of Appendix A.

Subsequent Surgical Procedures

Subsequent surgical procedures may be performed when initial procedures result in complications. In 1987, 4.8% of all women having therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals underwent such procedures. Canadian figures, historically, have been significantly lower than those in Alberta. Only 1.2% of Canadian women having abortions required subsequent procedures in 1986.

**TABLE 5**
**THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES (1982 TO 1987, SELECTED YEARS)**

| | ALBERTA | | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Initial Surgical Procedures | **1987** | 1986 | 1982 | 1986 | 1982 |
| | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Surgical D&C | **0.8** | 1.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 4.3 |
| Suction D&C | **64.8** | 74.6 | 78.0 | 92.4 | 86.6 |
| Surgical & Suction D&C | **28.4** | 19.1 | 12.1 | n/a(3) | 3.2 |
| Hysterotomy | **0.1** | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1(3) | 0.2 |
| Hysterectomy | **-** | 0.1 | 0.1 | n/a(3) | 0.1 |
| Saline/Saline D&C | **-** | - | 0.2 | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| Urea | **0.4** | 0.5 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Others | **5.5** | 4.3 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 2.3 |
| Total(4) | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1),(2) Refer to the Endnotes.
(3) Due to changes in reporting procedures for Statistics Canada, all D&C procedures are coded as either surgical or suction. Combination procedures cannot be identified. Similarly, hysterotomy, and hysterectomy procedures are not reported together.
(4) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

Of all initial D&C procedures performed in Alberta in 1987, only 1.6% required subsequent methods, down from the 2.4% of 1986. No subsequent procedures were performed with initial procedures such as Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy.

The most frequent subsequent procedures performed were of the D&C type which collectively accounted for 81.8% of all subsequent procedures (Surgical D&C 66.7%; Suction D&C 9.5% and Surgical and Suction D&C 5.7%), an increase over the 1986 level of 56.4%. An explanation for the rather high proportion of the D&C type may be that a high percentage of abortions were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation (a period where D&C initial and subsequent procedures generally are carried out more quickly and effectively than other procedures). Details can be found in Table 6 below and Tables A-12 and A-13 of Appendix A.

**Abortion Complications**

The conditions of morbidity occurring as a result of pregnancy termination are defined as abortion complications. The following discussion relates only to data pertaining to the hospitalization period directly following the termination of pregnancies. In 1987, 5.5% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals had complications. The comparable figure for 1986 was 6.0%.

**TABLE 6**
**THE PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS REQUIRING SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1982 TO 1987**

| ALBERTA | | | | | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 | 1986 | 1982 |
| **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| **4.8** | 5.2 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 1.7 |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

The complication which occurred most frequently in 1987 was 'retained products of conception' which accounted for 66.3% of all complications. This was the second increase in this proportion since 1981. The shorter the gestation, the lower the probability that a 'retained product' complication will occur. It follows then, that as the proportion of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks gestation decreases, the proportion of the 'retained product' type of complication increases.

Complications involving laceration of the cervix accounted for 9.0% of all complications; haemorrhage accounted for 9.9%; infection for 11.0%; perforation of the uterus for 2.6% and all other complications constituted the remaining 1.2%. Details are provided in Table 7 below and in Tables A-14 and A-15 in Appendix A.

The complication rate in Alberta has always been significantly higher than the Canadian rate. The risk of complication is directly related to patient age, length of gestation, initial procedures and whether or not the woman has had previous deliveries. Alberta has had a larger proportion of patients in the higher risk groups (e.g., patients under 25 years of age with gestation longer than 9 weeks and with no previous deliveries). A more detailed explanation for the difference in complication rates between Alberta and Canada is presented in note (7) of the Endnotes.

**TABLE 7**
**THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS WITH AT LEAST ONE ABORTION COMPLICATION, 1982 TO 1987**

| ALBERTA | | | | | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 | 1986 | 1982 |
| **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| **5.5** | 6.0 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 1.8 | 2.4 |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

**Concurrent Sterilizations**

In 1987, 503 women, representing 9.1% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals, were sterilized concurrently with an abortion procedure. This marks the first decrease in both the absolute number as well as the proportion of all abortion patients undergoing concurrent sterilization since 1983. The following procedures were used: tubal ligation (41.6%), tubal coagulation (20.1%), bilateral salpingectomy (1.0%), and hysterectomy (0.6%); the remainder (36.8%) were sterilized using other methods. Data regarding women sterilized concurrently with an abortion are presented in Table 8 below.

The sterilization decision relates directly to both the woman's age and whether or not she has had previous deliveries (i.e., generally, an older woman with several previous deliveries is more likely to choose sterilization than a younger woman with no previous deliveries). Of the 503 women sterilized with an abortion, 61.6% were 30 years of age or older. Patients under the age of 25 years accounted for 13.9% of all sterilizations. Regarding the 1987 age distribution of sterilized Alberta patients, the mode was the 30 to 34 years category (accounting for 29.0% of all women sterilized with an abortion procedure).

Only 9.7% of all patients sterilized had no previous deliveries. Of those patients sterilized who did have previous deliveries, 75.1% reported having had two or more. Details are presented in Table A-16 of Appendix A.

**TABLE 8**
**THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, UNDERGOING CONCURRENT STERILIZATION, 1982 TO 1987**

| YEAR | ALBERTA | CANADA |
|---|---|---|
| | (%) | (%) |
| **1987** | **9.1** | **n/a** |
| 1986 | 9.7 | 7.3 |
| 1985 | 8.9 | 7.0 |
| 1984 | 8.1 | 7.3 |
| 1983 | 8.0 | 7.2 |
| 1982 | 8.4 | 7.6 |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

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## TABLE A-1

## NUMBER OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADA(2) 1970 TO 1987

| | ALBERTA | | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YEAR | NUMBER | ANNUAL CHANGE | AS % OF CANADA | NUMBER | ANNUAL CHANGE |
| | | (%) | (%) | | (%) |
| **1987** | **5,505** | **-12.5** | n/a | **n/a** | **n/a** |
| 1986 | 6,295 | -3.8 | 9.9 | 63,508 | 1.2 |
| 1985 | 6,544 | -1.8 | 10.4 | 62,740 | 0.7 |
| 1984 | 6,665 | 2.9 | 10.7 | 62,291 | 0.8 |
| 1983 | 6,475 | -1.2 | 10.5 | 61,800 | -6.8 |
| 1982 | 6,556 | -2.6 | 9.9 | 66,319 | 1.8 |
| 1981 | 6,728 | -5.3 | 10.3 | 65,127 | -1.1 |
| 1980 | 7,108 | 1.0 | 10.8 | 65,855 | 1.1 |
| 1979 | 7,036 | 5.4 | 10.8 | 65,135 | 4.5 |
| 1978 | 6,677 | 15.8 | 10.7 | 62,351 | 8.2 |
| 1977 | 5,766 | 13.4 | 10.0 | 57,620 | 5.7 |
| 1976 | 5,083 | 15.2 | 9.3 | 54,536 | 10.4 |
| 1975 | 4,412 | -1.2 | 8.9 | 49,390 | 2.5 |
| 1974 | 4,464 | 8.1 | 9.3 | 48,198 | 11.5 |
| 1973 | 4,130 | 3.2 | 9.6 | 43,245 | 11.2 |
| 1972 | 4,002 | 26.3 | 10.3 | 38,905 | 25.7 |
| 1971 | 3,169 | 170.4 | 10.2 | 30,949 | 176.3 |
| 1970 | 1,172 | - | 10.5 | 11,200 | - |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

**TABLE A-2**
**DISTRIBUTION OF HOSPITALS AND THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS**
**BY NUMBER OF ABORTIONS PERFORMED**
**ALBERTA(1) 1982 TO 1987**

| | **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abortion Range | Number of Hospitals Performing Abortions | | | | | |
| 0 | **3** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1-20 | **5** | 7 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| 21-50 | **4** | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-100 | **1** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 101-200 | **3** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 201-400 | **3** | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Over 400 | **3** | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Total(2) | **22** | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Total Therapeutic Abortions | **5,505** | 6,295 | 6,544 | 6,665 | 6,475 | 6,556 |
| Abortion Range | Percent Distribution of Abortions Performed | | | | | |
| 1-20 | **0.8** | 0.6 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.8 |
| 21-50 | **3.0** | 1.7 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| 51-100 | **1.5** | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 | - | 1.6 |
| 101-200 | **7.7** | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 6.5 |
| 201-400 | **14.1** | 20.3 | 19.4 | 20.2 | 17.2 | 14.5 |
| Over 400 | **72.9** | 74.8 | 75.9 | 75.1 | 77.5 | 74.9 |
| Total(2) | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

**TABLE A-3**

**THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION, ALBERTA(1)**
**1978 TO 1987**

| | CALGARY | | | EDMONTON | | | OTHER | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YEAR | NUMBER | ANNUAL CHANGE | % OF ALL SERVICES | NUMBER | ANNUAL CHANGE | % OF ALL SERVICES | NUMBER | ANNUAL CHANGE | % OF ALL SERVICES |
| | | (%) | (%) | | (%) | (%) | | (%) | (%) |
| **1987** | **3,085** | **-3.2** | **56.0** | **1,292** | **-37.3** | **23.5** | **1,128** | **7.6** | **20.5** |
| 1986 | 3,188 | 2.7 | 50.6 | 2,059 | -13.4 | 32.7 | 1,048 | -1.3 | 16.6 |
| 1985 | 3,105 | -4.3 | 47.4 | 2,377 | 0.3 | 36.3 | 1,062 | 1.0 | 16.2 |
| 1984 | 3,244 | 10.2 | 48.7 | 2,370 | 0.3 | 35.6 | 1,051 | -10.1 | 15.8 |
| 1983 | 2,943 | 7.1 | 45.4 | 2,363 | -3.2 | 36.5 | 1,169 | -14.5 | 18.1 |
| 1982 | 2,747 | -5.1 | 41.9 | 2,442 | -2.4 | 37.2 | 1,367 | 2.8 | 20.9 |
| 1981 | 2,896 | -13.4 | 43.0 | 2,502 | 1.8 | 37.2 | 1,330 | 1.8 | 19.8 |
| 1980 | 3,343 | 7.4 | 47.0 | 2,458 | -10.6 | 34.6 | 1,307 | 11.3 | 18.4 |
| 1979 | 3,114 | 8.4 | 44.3 | 2,748 | 0.9 | 39.0 | 1,174 | 8.5 | 16.7 |
| 1978 | 2,872 | 7.2 | 43.0 | 2,723 | 29.4 | 40.8 | 1,082 | 10.3 | 16.2 |

Refer to the Endnotes for note (1).

**TABLE A-4**

**THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY PATIENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1982 TO 1987**

| Place of Residence | **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Alberta | **99.27** | 99.07 | 99.31 | 99.16 | 99.14 | 99.44 |
| Other Provinces | **0.71** | 0.88 | 0.67 | 0.83 | 0.80 | 0.55 |
| Out of Canada | **0.02** | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.01 |
| Total(2) | **100.00** | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.00% due to the rounding procedures used.

## TABLE A-5

## THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADA(2) 1971 TO 1987

| | ALBERTA(3,4,5) | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YEAR | RATE PER 1,000 FEMALES 15-44 YEARS | RATE PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS | RATE PER 1,000 FEMALES 15-44 YEARS | RATE PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS |
| **1987** | **9.2** | **13.1** | **n/a** | **n/a** |
| 1986 | 10.5 | 14.4 | 10.2 | 17.0 |
| 1985 | 11.0 | 14.9 | 10.2 | 16.7 |
| 1984 | 11.2 | 15.1 | 10.2 | 16.5 |
| 1983 | 10.8 | 14.2 | 10.2 | 16.5 |
| 1982 | 11.2 | 14.7 | 11.1 | 17.8 |
| 1981 | 12.0 | 15.8 | 11.1 | 17.5 |
| 1980 | 13.3 | 17.9 | 11.5 | 17.7 |
| 1979 | 13.6 | 18.6 | 11.6 | 17.8 |
| 1978 | 13.6 | 18.5 | 11.3 | 17.4 |
| 1977 | 12.4 | 16.4 | 10.6 | 15.9 |
| 1976 | 11.5 | 15.0 | 10.3 | 15.1 |
| 1975 | 10.6 | 13.7 | 9.6 | 13.7 |
| 1974 | 11.3 | 14.7 | 9.6 | 13.7 |
| 1973 | 10.8 | 13.8 | 8.9 | 12.6 |
| 1972 | 10.7 | 13.3 | 8.2 | 11.2 |
| 1971 | 8.9 | 10.2 | 6.6 | 8.5 |

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) to (5).

**TABLE A-6**

**WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS
DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1982 TO 1987**

| | **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Therapeutic Abortions | **5,505** | 6,295 | 6,544 | 6,665 | 6,475 | 6,556 |
| Distribution by Marital Status | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Single | **64.7** | 65.8 | 65.8 | 66.3 | 64.2 | 64.5 |
| Married | **17.9** | 18.6 | 19.5 | 19.5 | 19.7 | 19.2 |
| Others(2) | **17.4** | 15.6 | 14.7 | 14.2 | 16.1 | 16.3 |
| TOTAL | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Distribution by Age Group | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Under 15 | **0.8** | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| 15 - 19 | **24.7** | 23.5 | 24.3 | 24.7 | 25.7 | 27.8 |
| 20 - 24 | **32.8** | 35.3 | 34.6 | 35.3 | 37.1 | 36.7 |
| 25 - 29 | **22.4** | 21.1 | 21.7 | 21.5 | 20.1 | 19.3 |
| 30 - 34 | **12.2** | 12.2 | 11.7 | 11.1 | 10.3 | 9.5 |
| 35 - 39 | **5.3** | 5.7 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.4 |
| 40 - 44 | **1.7** | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| 45 or Over | **0.1** | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL(3) | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

**TABLE A-7**

**WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD, 1982 TO 1987**

| | ALBERTA | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gestation Period(2) | **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 |
| | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Under 9 wks. | **27.8** | 25.4 | 29.4 | 27.6 | 23.5 | 17.9 |
| 9 - 12 wks. | **62.4** | 64.7 | 62.1 | 62.3 | 65.8 | 67.8 |
| Subtotal (under 13 wks.) | **90.2** | 90.1 | 91.5 | 89.9 | 89.3 | 85.7 |
| 13 - 16 wks. | **6.2** | 7.3 | 6.3 | 7.9 | 8.7 | 11.7 |
| 17 - 20 wks. | **3.4** | 2.6 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.4 |
| 21 wks. or over | **0.1** | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Subtotal (13 wks. or over) | **9.8** | 9.9 | 8.5 | 10.0 | 10.7 | 14.3 |
| TOTAL(3) | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

## TABLE A-8

### WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BEFORE THIRTEEN WEEKS OF GESTATION IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, PERCENTAGE BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1982 TO 1987

| | ALBERTA | | | | | | CANADA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marital Status/Age | **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 | 1986 | 1982 |
| MARITAL STATUS | | | | | | | | |
| Single | **90.0** | 88.8 | 90.8 | 89.5 | 88.5 | 85.0 | 86.9 | 85.4 |
| Married | **92.2** | 92.8 | 93.9 | 92.2 | 90.8 | 88.7 | 90.3 | 90.9 |
| Others(3) | **88.8** | 92.3 | 91.8 | 88.8 | 90.6 | 84.9 | 89.2 | 87.5 |
| AGE | | | | | | | | |
| Under 20 yrs. | **88.1** | 85.7 | 87.5 | 87.0 | 87.3 | 82.2 | 82.0 | 80.7 |
| 20 - 29 yrs. | **90.4** | 90.7 | 92.5 | 90.3 | 89.4 | 86.5 | 89.6 | 88.2 |
| 30 - 39 yrs. | **92.6** | 94.3 | 94.3 | 93.4 | 92.6 | 89.8 | 88.5 | 92.1 |
| 40 yrs. and Over | **92.1** | 88.0 | 93.5 | 87.5 | 89.2 | 84.4 | 92.2 | 90.1 |
| TOTAL | **90.2** | 90.1 | 91.5 | 89.9 | 89.3 | 85.7 | 90.6 | 86.9 |

(1),(2) Refer to the Endnotes.
(3) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements as well as those women receiving abortions whose marital status was unknown.

## TABLE A-9

## WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1987

| | Previous Deliveries | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | None | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or More | Not Stated | Total(3) |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| TOTAL | 57.8 | 19.4 | 15.3 | 5.6 | 2.0 | - | 100.0 |
| MARITAL STATUS | | | | | | | |
| Single | 78.0 | 15.6 | 4.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 | - | 100.0 |
| Married | 14.9 | 21.8 | 40.1 | 16.5 | 6.7 | - | 100.0 |
| Others(2) | 26.7 | 30.8 | 28.7 | 10.6 | 3.3 | - | 100.0 |
| AGE GROUP | | | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 88.3 | 10.1 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0 | - | 100.0 |
| 20 - 24 | 63.0 | 23.8 | 10.5 | 2.3 | 0.4 | - | 100.0 |
| 25 - 29 | 43.0 | 23.4 | 23.6 | 7.5 | 2.4 | - | 100.0 |
| 30 - 34 | 31.1 | 20.0 | 32.0 | 12.7 | 4.2 | - | 100.0 |
| 35 - 39 | 18.2 | 17.5 | 35.1 | 20.3 | 8.9 | - | 100.0 |
| 40 - 44 | 9.7 | 20.4 | 28.0 | 23.7 | 18.3 | - | 100.0 |
| 45 and Over | 25.0 | 12.5 | 25.0 | 12.5 | 25.0 | - | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

## TABLE A-10

## WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS INDUCED ABORTIONS, 1987

| | Previous Induced Abortions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NONE | 1 | 2 | 3 OR MORE | TOTAL(3) |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| TOTAL | 79.8 | 17.4 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 100.0 |
| MARITAL STATUS | | | | | |
| Single | 81.3 | 16.1 | 2.3 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| Married | 81.5 | 16.1 | 1.9 | 0.5 | 100.0 |
| Others(2) | 72.2 | 23.3 | 3.8 | 0.7 | 100.0 |
| AGE GROUP | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 89.7 | 9.5 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 100.0 |
| 20 - 24 | 78.9 | 18.4 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| 25 - 29 | 72.9 | 23.0 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 100.0 |
| 30 - 34 | 73.1 | 22.0 | 4.0 | 0.9 | 100.0 |
| 35 - 39 | 83.8 | 14.1 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| 40 - 44 | 75.3 | 17.2 | 6.5 | 1.1 | 100.0 |
| 45 and Over | 62.5 | 25.0 | 12.5 | - | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

## TABLE A-11

## WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1982 TO 1987

| | ALBERTA | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Initial Surgical Procedures | **1987** | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 |
| | **(%)** | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Surgical D&C | **0.8** | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 3.1 |
| Suction D&C | **64.8** | 74.6 | 77.0 | 76.6 | 79.2 | 78.0 |
| Surgical & Suction D&C | **28.4** | 19.1 | 18.4 | 18.7 | 15.3 | 12.1 |
| Hysterotomy | **0.1** | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Hysterectomy | **-** | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Saline/Saline D&C | **-** | - | - | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Urea | **0.4** | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Others | **5.5** | 4.3 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 4.3 |
| TOTAL(2) | **100.0** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes for note (1).
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

## TABLE A-12

## SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1987

| Initial Procedure | Total | Surgical D&C | Suction D&C | Surgical & Suction D&C | Hyster-otomy | Hyster-ectomy | Saline | Urea | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Subsequent Procedure | | | | | | | | | |
| None Reported | 95.2 | 97.8 | 98.5 | 98.1 | 100.0 | 100.0 | - | 52.2 | 43.8 |
| Surgical D&C | 3.2 | - | 0.5 | 0.3 | - | - | - | 21.7 | 49.0 |
| Suction D&C | 0.5 | - | 0.3 | 0.2 | - | - | - | 8.7 | 3.6 |
| Surgical & Suction D&C | 0.3 | - | 0.1 | 0.7 | - | - | - | 8.7 | - |
| Hysterotomy | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | - | - | - | - | 4.3 | - |
| Hysterectomy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4.3 | - |
| Saline | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | 0.8 | - | 0.6 | 0.6 | - | - | - | - | 3.6 |
| TOTAL(2) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | - | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

**TABLE A-13**
**FREQUENT SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES, 1987**

| Subsequent Procedure | Percentage of Total Subsequent Procedures |
|---|---|
| | (%) |
| Surgical D&C | 66.7 |
| Suction D&C | 9.5 |
| Surgical & Suction D&C | 5.7 |
| Hysterotomy | 1.5 |
| Hysterectomy | 0.4 |
| Other | 16.3 |
| TOTAL(2) | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

**TABLE A-14**
**THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY NATURE OF COMPLICATION AND PERIOD OF GESTATION, 1987**

| | Gestation Period(2) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nature of Complication | Under 9 Weeks | 9 - 12 Weeks | 13 - 16 Weeks | 17 - 20 Weeks | 21 Weeks Or Over | Total |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Retained Products of Conception | 33.3 | 40.9 | 83.0 | 87.4 | 66.6 | 66.3 |
| Perforation of Uterus | 18.5 | 3.5 | - | - | - | 2.6 |
| Laceration of Cervix | 29.6 | 17.4 | 3.4 | - | - | 9.0 |
| Haemorrhage | - | 10.4 | 11.4 | 9.9 | 33.3 | 9.9 |
| Infection | 18.5 | 26.1 | 1.1 | 1.8 | - | 11.0 |
| Others | - | 1.7 | 1.1 | 0.9 | - | 1.2 |
| TOTAL(3) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
(3) Percentages due not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-15

THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1987

| | Nature of Complication | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Initial Surgical Procedure | Retained Products Of Conception | Laceration Of Cervix | Haemorrhage | Perforated Uterus | Infection | Others | Total(2) |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Surgical D&C | - | - | - | 100.0 | - | - | 100.0 |
| Suction D&C | 31.8 | 22.7 | 11.4 | 8.0 | 22.7 | 3.4 | 100.0 |
| Surgical & Suction D&C | 42.6 | 21.3 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 29.8 | - | 100.0 |
| Hysterotomy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hysterectomy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Saline/Saline D&C | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Urea | 84.6 | - | 7.7 | - | 7.7 | - | 100.0 |
| Other | 86.7 | 0.5 | 10.8 | - | 1.5 | 0.5 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL | 66.3 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 2.6 | 11.0 | 1.2 | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

**TABLE A-16**
**WOMEN STERILIZED FOLLOWING ABORTION IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1987**

| | Number of Previous Deliveries | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Or More | Not Stated | All Patients |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Under 20 | - | 2.6 | - | 0.9 | - | - | 0.6 |
| 20 - 24 | 12.2 | 18.4 | 14.6 | 11.7 | 2.4 | - | 13.3 |
| 25 - 29 | 12.2 | 26.3 | 27.0 | 23.4 | 24.4 | - | 24.5 |
| 30 - 34 | 36.7 | 22.4 | 32.7 | 26.1 | 19.5 | - | 29.0 |
| 35 - 39 | 26.5 | 19.7 | 18.6 | 27.9 | 34.1 | - | 22.9 |
| 40 - 44 | 10.2 | 9.2 | 7.1 | 9.9 | 14.6 | - | 8.9 |
| 45 & Over | 2.0 | 1.3 | - | - | 4.9 | - | 0.8 |
| TOTAL(2) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | - | 100.0 |

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

## APPENDIX B

### ALBERTA HOSPITALS WITH THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMMITTEES
### As of January 1, 1987

Brooks Health Centre
Calgary General
Foothills Provincial General, Calgary
Holy Cross, Calgary
Rockyview General, Calgary
Drumheller General
Charles Camsell, Edmonton
Royal Alexandra, Edmonton
University of Alberta, Edmonton
Fort Saskatchewan General
Grande Prairie General
High Prairie Regional Health Complex
Hinton General
Innisfail Health Care Centre
Archer Memorial, Lamont
Lethbridge Regional (General Centre)
Medicine Hat and District (General Centre)
Peace River Municipal
Provost Municipal Health Care Centre
Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre
Stettler General
Wetaskiwin General

## ENDNOTES

(1) Includes both residents and non-residents of Alberta who received therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals. Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File.**

(2) Includes only Canadian women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals and for whom selected demographic and medical items of information were available. Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211.

(3) Alberta rates were derived using data which includes therapeutic abortions performed on women of all ages, that is, including patients younger than 15 and older than 44 years of age.

(4) The number of therapeutic abortions received by Alberta women in Canadian hospitals from 1971 to 1986 are those reported by Statistics Canada in **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211. These figures are used to derive the province's abortion rates per 1,000 females (15-44 years) and per 100 live births. The rates, however, have been recalculated for 1971 to 1986 using revised population and live birth data from the following sources:

Population: Statistics Canada, **Population, Revised Annual Estimates of Population by Sex and Age for Canada and the Provinces,** 1971 to 1976, Catalogue 91-518; **Final Intercensal Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age, Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1977 to 1981,** 1977 to 1981 revised intercensal estimates based on the 1981 Census of Canada.

Postcensal **Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces,** Catalogue 91-210, June 1, 1982 to 1986.

Live Births: Statistics Canada, **Vital Statistics, Volume 1, Births and Deaths,** Catalogue 84-204, 1971 to 1985. Unpublished data for 1986 were obtained from Statistics Canada.

(5) The 1987 rates are calculated using the total number of therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals in 1987, including therapeutic abortions performed for non-residents of the province. Alberta women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals outside of Alberta are not included. The source of population and live birth data are:

Population: Statistics Canada, **Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces,** Catalogue 91-210, June 1, 1987.

Live Births: 1987 preliminary live birth counts were obtained from Vital Statistics, Division of Alberta Health.

(6) Historically, both the therapeutic abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years (TA/POP) and the fertility rate (FR), defined here as live births (LB) per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years, have been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Since 1981, the difference between the fertility rates of Alberta and Canada has been significantly greater than the difference between the abortion rates. Therefore, the abortion rate per 100 livebirths (TA/100LB) has been lower in Alberta than in Canada for the past five years. The algebraic expression relating the two abortions rates and the fertility rates is as follows:

$$\frac{TA}{100LB} = \frac{TA}{(FR)POP(1/100)} = \frac{TA/POP}{FR(1/100)}$$

(7) The significant difference in the complication rate between Canada and Alberta is a result of many interrelated factors. Statistics Canada's studies reveal that complication risks tend to be higher with patients less than 25 years of age (particularly less than 20 years) than with more mature patients. The proportion of patients less than 25 years (and less than 20 years) has generally been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Complication risks also tend to increase with gestation. Although Alberta performs a large proportion of abortions prior to 13 weeks of pregnancy, a relatively large number of these are performed between 9 and 13 weeks. Statistics Canada claims that a two week postponement of an abortion from 9-10 weeks to 11-12 weeks can result in a 54% increase in the complication risk. Since some initial procedures are associated with a higher incidence of complications than others, as the mix of initial procedures varies across the provinces, so will the average complication rate. Finally, collecting nation-wide data on abortion complications is a delicate issue as variations in the diagnosis of such complications may result in the failure of all provinces to report in uniform manner.

Source: Statistics Canada, "Early Complication Risks of Legal Abortions, Canada, 1975-1980", **Canadian Journal of Public Health**, Vol. 73, November/December 1982, p. 396-400.